

for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. During that time, Peter received a special commendation from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for his service to the judicial system as a member of the Judicial Council's Committee on Judicial Security and Emergency Preparedness. He retired in 2013, after twenty years of service.

In addition to his career in government, Peter also worked as a funeral director. Peter established the Peter J. Adonizio Funeral Home in 2001 in West Pittston. As a result of flooding caused by Tropical Storm Lee in 2011, Peter relocated his funeral home to William Street in Pittston. Adonizio is a member of the Luzerne County Funeral Directors Association, Pennsylvania Funeral Directors Association, and the National Funeral Directors Association.

It is an honor to recognize Peter for all of his community and state accomplishments, and I extend my congratulations on his award. I wish him the best in all future endeavors and thank him for the contributions he has made serving his fellow Pennsylvanians.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS  
QUIGLEY ON HOMETOWN HERO  
AWARD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2015*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Thomas Clayton Quigley of Bedford, Texas, on his receipt of the City of Bedford's Hometown Hero Award for his service to our nation and outstanding citizenship in his community.

Thomas chose to enlist in the United States Army in 1942, in the midst of World War II. He graduated Officer Candidate School and became a First Lieutenant who served in Company E, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment in the 2nd Infantry Division. After training in Scotland and England, Thomas and his unit landed on Omaha Beach on June 7, 1944, shortly after the first D-Day landings to liberate Europe from Nazi Germany. He was wounded twice in France but ultimately continued to fight, participating in the Battle of the Bulge. He recounts that, in the middle of war, he and his men were often too busy to be afraid, reflecting that, "it was our job, the one we signed up for."

After Germany surrendered, Thomas was stationed at Fort Swift in Texas, awaiting deployment to the Pacific, which was preempted by the Japanese surrender in August, 1945. While at Fort Swift, he met his wife, Barbara, when he and some friends decided to talk to some young women on a porch in Austin. He offered to help her when she brought out some water and she says "He has been helping me ever since." Together they have been married almost seventy years and have three children—Barbette, Kay, and Keith—and three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He says that surviving the war is "one of [his] greatest accomplishments" but that it is his "wonderful family that has made [him] truly blessed."

Thomas took advantage of the G.I. bill and went to study at Michigan State University, bringing his new wife with him. They returned

to Texas for the weather (Thomas says, "I survived the Bulge weather but couldn't stand the cold Michigan weather"), and he graduated from Texas Tech with a degree in agronomy. At first, like many returning veterans, finding a job in civilian life was difficult and he was a guard at the gate of a food plant. He eventually became a dispatcher for Central Freight Lines for 28 years, retiring in 1984. Even after retirement, Thomas was engaged and industrious, becoming the owner of a local 9-hole golf course and driving range.

In his later years, Thomas has also become involved in keeping the recorded memories of World War II available for the public and future generations. With two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars, he went with Barbara to the 40th anniversary ceremonies at Normandy in 1984. Since that experience, he has written a memoir book, *World War II, My War*, logged his oral accounts in the National World War II museum in New Orleans, Louisiana, received the French Legion of Honor medal, and been featured recounting the Battle of the Bulge on the History Channel in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Thomas Quigley on the Hometown Hero Award, honoring his valor and strong citizenship, and thanking him for his selfless sacrifice for our nation and freedom in the Second World War.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2015*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 519 through 520 due to congressional travel.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on Number 519 and yes on Number 520.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2015*

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 535, due to an in-district event announcing new funding for displaced coal miners and their families to pay for job retraining and educational opportunities, I was unable to cast my vote on this bill. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF GREATER  
BEALLWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH'S  
139TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Greater Beallwood Baptist Church in Columbus, Geor-

gia as they celebrate a remarkable 139 years. An anniversary celebration will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. at the church in Columbus. The event will also be an opportunity to welcome Reverend Adrian J. Chester as the church's new pastor.

Greater Beallwood Baptist Church traces its roots back to the post-Civil War era in 1876, when Beallwood Baptist Church was first organized under the leadership of Reverend Boston Miles and Deacon Albert Harper.

Over the years, the church would see many outstanding leaders but perhaps the most noteworthy were Reverend I.S.H. Allen, who served sixteen fruitful years from 1920 until his passing in 1936, and Reverend James Carter Cook, who served for four decades as the church grew and flourished tremendously.

In addition to the achievements of pastors, many laymen have also made significant contributions to the life of the church. In 1905, Deacon Eddie Borders became chairman of the Board of Deacons and served for over fifty years. The church would see many more dedicated citizen leaders, men and women, called to serve all the way into the 21st century.

In 1956, Beallwood Baptist Church became incorporated and the name was changed to Greater Beallwood Baptist Church, Inc. A growing church membership at Greater Beallwood meant pastors had a larger flock to shepherd. In 1975, Greater Beallwood began meeting in worship every Sunday morning, rather than two Sundays out of the month. The church then called upon its first assistant pastor, Reverend Billy J. Carter, to assist in growing pastoral duties.

In January 1987, the church was blessed when the Lord placed Reverend Willie L. Hill over this flock. Much was accomplished during Rev. Hill's twenty-eight years as pastor, including increased participation in the learning programs of the church, especially Sunday School and Bible Study. In 2010, Rev. Hill instituted Children's Church for children ages 5 through 12. Not only did Rev. Hill's leadership grow the congregation in number and in spirit, but it also was instrumental in the building of a new sanctuary that would accommodate the numerous church services and meetings.

In 2014, God had strategically placed Reverend Adrian J. Chester as the church's first youth pastor. After Rev. Hill's retirement in 2015, Rev. Chester became the seventeenth pastor of Greater Beallwood Baptist Church.

Today, Greater Beallwood is blessed to have numerous ministries and fellowship opportunities. Fellowship at Greater Beallwood is characterized by unconditional love, rich in relationship with God, family, and friends. The members of Greater Beallwood reflect this idea of fellowship throughout the community by serving those in need.

The story of the Greater Beallwood Baptist Church, which began as a small group of people worshipping 139 years ago and has grown into an expansive and successful church, is truly an inspiring one of the dedication and perseverance of a faithful congregation of people who put all their love and trust in the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the membership of the Greater Beallwood Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia for their long history of coming together through good and difficult times to praise and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.